

**Question for written answer E-000354/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Moritz Körner (Renew)

Subject: EncroChat

In 2020, Europol dismantled EncroChat, an encrypted phone network which Europol claimed was widely used by criminal networks. According to Europol, a joint investigation made it possible to intercept, share and analyse millions of messages that were exchanged between criminals to plan serious crimes. A significant proportion of these messages were read by law enforcement in real time, over the shoulder of the unsuspecting senders.

1. What percentage of EncroChat users were engaged in criminal activity, and was all communication on the network intercepted and analysed, or only that of specific suspects?
2. Was the software used to hack the EncroChat network developed by Europol, and if so, what was the legal basis for this?
3. Were the services provided by EncroChat illegal, and did they offer any added value to users after EncroChat was hacked by Europol?